

Message Text

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TAGS: ECA, CCON, TECH
SUBJ: AFRICAN REGIONAL MEETING OF THE UN CONFERENCE ON
- SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT: OPENING
- PHASES

1. AFRICAN REGIONAL MEETING OF THE UN CONFERENCE ON
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (UNCSTD) OPENED IN
CAIRO AUGUST 24 AND, FOLLOWING WELCOMING ADDRESS BY
EGYPTIAN PRIME MINISTER SALEM, ELECTED HEAD OF HOST
GOVERNMENT DELEGATION, ABOU-EL-AZM AS CHAIRMAN.
MALIAN REPRESENTATIVE TRAORE AND
ZAMBIAN REPRESENTATIVE LUMINA ELECTED AS VICE CHAIRMEN,
AND GUINEAN REPRESENTATIVE SISSOKO AND MAURITIUS REPRESENTATIVE
GHURBUROUN AS RAPPORTEURS.

2. THIRTY-TWO AFRICAN REGION STATES ARE PARTICIPATING, OF
WHICH FOUR ARE REPRESENTED AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL
(BOTSWANA, MALI, MAURITIUS AND ZAMBIA). EIGHT OTHERS ARE
LED BY SENIOR TECHNICAL PERSONNEL (CAMEROON, EGYPT,
ETHIOPIA, LESOTHO, NIGERIA, SUDAN, SWAZILAND AND ZAIRE).
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OF THE REST SEVEN DELEGATIONS (MOSTLY NORTH AFRICAN, BUT
ALSO GHANA) ARE COMPOSED ENTIRELY OF LOCAL EMBASSY
PERSONNEL. NATIONAL OBSERVER REPRESENTATIVES ARE PRESENT
FROM AUSTRIA, BRAZIL, PRC, COLOMBIA, FINLAND, FRANCE,
GUATEMALA, INDIA, PANAMA, POLAND, ROMANIA, UK, US AND
USSR.

3. MEETING DISCUSSION WAS KEYNOTED BY STATEMENTS DELIVERED BY ECA EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OBIBAYO ADEDEJI AND BY UNCSTD DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL GRESFORD (BOTH COVERED IN SEPTEL). GRESFORD EXPLAINED ABSENCE OF SECRETARY GENERAL DA COSTA AS THE RESULT OF FATIGUE FROM THE HEAVY TRAVEL PROGRAM HE HAS BEEN FOLLOWING, WHEREUPON THE MEETING PARTICIPANTS, WHO APPEAR TO BE GENUINELY SUPPORTIVE OF DA COSTA, ADOPTED AN EXPRESSION OF HOPE FOR HIS EARLY RECOVERY. HIS CHEF DE CABINET, OMAR ASLAOUI, WHO TOGETHER WITH GRESFORD IS MANAGING TO COMPENSATE ADMIRABLY FOR DA COSTA'S ABSENCE,ACKNOWLEDGED PRIVATELY TO US, HOWEVER, THAT IT WAS PIQUE AT THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE NEXT UNCSTD PREPCOM, MORE THAN FATIGUE, WHICH IS CAUSING HIM TO FOREGO ATTENDANCE.

4. CHAIRMAN OBOU-EL AZM ATTEMPTED AT THE OUTSET TO FORCE THE PACE OF WORK BY DISPATCHING A WORKING GROUP OF EXPERTS TO BEGIN REVISION OF THE SECRETARIAT'S DRAFT PAPER FOR THE AFRICAN REGION BUT THE AFRICAN DELEGATIONS INSISTED ON AN ORDERLY HEARING OF NATIONAL STATEMENTS AS A PRELIMINARY BASIS FOR THIS. OBVIOUSLY ANNOYED BY A COORDINATED EFFORT BY EGYPT, SUDAN AND ETHIOPIA TO ORCHESTRATE THE WORK OF THE MEETING, ONCE NATIONAL STATEMENTS HAD BEEN PUT INTO THE RECORD, THE OTHER AFRICANS TOOK CHARGE OF SUBSTANTIVE PROCEEDINGS FROM THAT POINT ON.

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5. WORKING GROUP WAS ESTABLISHED UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF MALIAN VICE CHAIRMAN TRAORE COMPRISED IN ADDITION OF CHAD, KENYA, EGYPT, SUDAN, NIGER, MAURITIUS AND AN ECA REPRESENTATIVE TO REVISE THE DRAFT REGIONAL PAPER. ALTHOUGH DIRECTED INITIALLY TO REPORT BACK TO PLENARY SUNDAY MORNING, AUGUST 27, THE WORKING GROUP WAS UNABLE TO MEET THIS DEADLINE AND ITS REPORT IS NOW SCHEDULED TO COME BEFORE PLENARY IN THE AFTERNOON OF AUGUST 28. CONTENTS OF THIS (WHICH HAS JUST COME INTO OUR HANDS) AND ITS RECEPTION BY PLENARY WILL BE REPORTED IN A SUBSEQUENT CABLE.

6. ABOVE FROM USDEL. MATTHEWS

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